

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., by Chairman Richard Robinson. Also in attendance were; Member, Al Holman and Asst. Public Health Supervisor, Diane Tiernan.

Agenda was reviewed. Richard R. stated he would like to add to the agenda, a discussion about the Zika virus.

**Motion one** – Al made a motion to approve of the minutes from the previous meeting dated 1/14/16. Richard R. seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by majority.

Vouchers were reviewed and signed.

Board reviewed the draft of the budget for fiscal 17. Richard stated he would like to submit the next step in salary for the ACO officer, Mike Moran. Mike has been doing an outstanding job and upon his completion of the new certification program, Richard would like to propose an increase in his salary. Al agreed. Diane was asked to contact the Personnel Board and find out when the next meeting is.

Richard also discussed the line item for the hazardous waste day. He is proposing putting up pods in a central location, possibly the DPW, for the collection of hazardous waste on a more frequent basis. Diane stated we would have to obtain the man power to monitor the collection, but she would look into the matter further.

A garbage and offal permit was reviewed for Tom Berkowitz Trucking of Whitinsville, MA.

**Motion two** – Al made a motion to approve of the permit and Richard seconded the motion. Permit was approved by majority.

An installer's permit was reviewed for Chase/harris of Sutton, MA.

**Motion three** - Al made a motion to approve of the permit and Richard seconded the motion. Permit was approved by majority.

Diane shared with the Board the rabies exemption form she designed for any future requests for exemption from the rabies vaccination. Board approved of the form for future use. Diane also stated that should the approving Vet., Rosario Delgado submit a request, we can obtain the services of Mendon Animal Clinic for review. Board agreed.

Board discussed the outbreak of the Zika virus in Central and South American, the Caribbean, and the most recent US cases. The mosquito born virus appears to be causing major birth defects in pregnant woman. Richard suggested we put an article on the next warrant to make another attempt to join the Central Mass. Mosquito Control Program. Hopefully, residents will understand the need for it this time around. Diane stated she would get an updated price to join the program.

Diane stated she received a phone call from Yvonne Kadlik, the tenant from 92 Hopkinton Road. She is looking to move her things from the property; however she asked if she could wait a few more days past the deadline of 1/31/16. Board agreed a few days shouldn't make a difference, as long as she understands it's a onetime opportunity.

Board discussed the fee for the BOH agent to review septic designs. The agent agreed to a \$65.00 per plan compensation rate. Board agreed to move forward with the proposal.

7:22 p.m., Vince Calandra of Dairy Drive arrived to discuss concerns he and his neighbors have with the Grafton-Upton rail road.

Camile Merusi and Mike Karrat were also in attendance. They may be purchasing a home off of Plain Street.

Richard asked Vince if he was representing the homeowners association of Dairy Drive. Vince stated no he is just representing a neighborhood group that is concerned about the railroad upgrades. Richard stated he would like to know how to get in touch with the group, if there are details to share it helps to know how you are organized, instead of having to contact each and every member. Vince stated it is his understanding that the association is specifically responsible for wetlands, trails, etc. and they are not part of any other discussions. Vince stated that Audry Dempsey is the secretary for his group and she could be contacted if the Board needs to reach the group.

Vince thanked the Board for allowing him time to attend the meeting. He previously went to speak to the GURR in December, knowing if you want information you should go to the source. Vince reviewed a power point presentation with the Board which he also used for a recent meeting with the Conservation Commission. He and the neighbors have concerns with the development plans and the impact on the environment and health of the residents. Vince stated he met with Stan Gordan of GURR . He was told that the trains will be increasing their rate of speed from 10 to 25 mph in 2017. Their growth is based upon bookings, but their growth target is 3 engines with up to 21 freight cars, totaling 24. They will need to upgrade the track first which they have purchased the material for. There will be no curfew; it will be a 24 hour operation. Presently the latest train is 11:30 at night. They're at a lower rate of speed right now and no propane is coming through Upton. Richard stated there are no plans to do so in Upton. Vince stated they could be transporting liquid propane in Upton. Richard stated they have no plans to, but they could. Vine stated there is no responsibility of the adjacent lake and there will be a double gate on Williams street. Al stated that the RR crossings are actually the financial responsibility of the town, but they're being paid for by a grant and the GURR . Richard stated they want the crossing gates because at night it's hard to see. Vince stated that no one seems to be responsible to put up any sound or visual barriers. The tracks run along Lake Wildwood. Richard stated he was pretty sure the

tracks were more than 500 feet from the lake. We have no authority to deal with wetlands, only the Conservation Commission does. Vince stated he understands his own property is his responsibility but what about the wildlife around the lake, specifically the sound pollution. Richard stated if someone decides to run very loud Harley Davidson's on the street, we have no authority over it. Vince asked the Board if they were concerned that the sound may be over the limit. Al stated the Board has been involved in this battle for over 6 years. The problems started with the storage of telephone poles on the railyard property. The owner of the GURR, Jon Deli Prescoli walked away from a huge contract for the poles to work with the Board. Then we worked on the sound abatements for the transfer facility at the railyard. Jon installed thousands of dollars' worth of material to reduce the noise. The noise requirements are a policy, not a regulation. Even though the RR was not required to comply with the noise policy, he agreed to comply. There are more hazardous materials on route 140 than what is being hauled on the RR. Vince stated he wants us to understand he does not want to impede a small business. He told the RR that, he is just concerned with the sound footprint and what it will do. Vince showed the Board a video of a freight train and the noise impact it has. Al stated the GURR's locomotives aren't that big or loud. Vince then showed the Board photos of train cars that come through the yard. Vince stated the cars come from all parts of the country. Al stated the photo is stretched. Vince stated the picture was distorted so that it would fit on the page. Vince is concerned that less than a 100 yards away there are families and pets. Richard asked Vince if he knew there was a railroad there when he bought his house. Vince stated he did, but it ran at a low speed. The upgrades are inconsistent with what he was told when he bought the house.

Camile stated she is being told two different things, is the RR going to upgrade the railroad and increase the speed or not. Al stated he can upgrade and increase his speed, but he doesn't think they're going to.

Vince stated recently a train came by causing a rock to hurdle through the window of a home on Dairy Drive and was embedded into the couch. No one was hurt; however a person would have been killed. GURR poses a threat. Al asked if they filed a complaint. Vince stated he is not certain if legal action was taken. Al stated there have been numerous suits against railroads for noise, contamination, etc. They are exempt from any regulations. If anyone goes against the RR you don't just fight them you fight every RR in the country. It's much more successful to work with the owner instead of going for a long drawn out law suit that you probably won't ever win. Even the town's legal counsel said not to fight it. They came to a town meeting and gave a full presentation on the rights of a railroad. We've looked at every alternative; the most successful way to deal is to work with the RR. Jon Deli has been beat to death by every community, the ones he's not fighting legally he'll work with. The government encourages RR's to reduce the amount of vehicles on the road, they want them to reestablish. Vince stated he came tonight looking for input on this matter. It sounds like you can't help me. As for safety it sounds like you have no jurisdiction over that either. Basically there is nothing you can do for the

residents who live there. Board stated that was correct. Al stated you can go to court but you will spend lots of money. He is pretty sure the GURR has spent all there going to on noise abatement at this point. Vince stated he got the same impression from GURR, they weren't going to do anything for the group. Vince stated his research is thorough and the noise will be very loud. He recently received an awkward verbal phone call from Stan Gordan of GURR. Al asked if he contacted the Police about it. Vince stated no, but that was a good idea.

8:04 p.m. Vince thanked the Board and left,

***Motion four*** – Al made a motion to adjourn and Richard seconded the motion.  
8:20p.m. meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Tiernan,  
Asst. Public Health Supervisor